

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 07058 231053Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /090 W
-----001891 231058Z /13

O 231008Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0014

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 7058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: NEXT STEPS

REF: USUN 5768,

1. THE PRETORIA FIVE MET AT THE EMBASSY DEC. 23. FOLLOWING
IS OUR AGREED COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED SCENARIO (REFTEL):

QUOTE

2. THE PRETORIA FIVE MET THIS MORNING, DECEMBER 23,
TO REVIEW THE NEW YORK CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR
NEXT STEPS ON NAMIBIA AND AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 07058 231053Z

3. REGARDING THE PROPOSED SCENARIO, WE ANTICIPATE POSSIBLE
DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS OVER TIMING AND LOCALE.
THEY WILL PROBABLY RAISE THE NEED FOR A LOCALE WHERE
THERE IS DIRECT ACCESS TO VORSTER. THEY MAY ALSO
HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH THE TIMING BECAUSE THE
OPENING OF THE NEW YORK "PROXIMITY TALKS" WILL COME
IN THE MIDST OF THE SAG MOVE TO CAPE TOWN. WE WOULD

POINT OUT THAT A DATE LATER THAN JANUARY 17 WOULD BE WORSE FROM A SOUTH AFRICAN STANDPOINT BECAUSE BOTH WILL WANT TO BE ON HAND DURING THE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND THE RUN UP TO THE NEW PARLIAMENT WHICH OPENS ON JANUARY 27. IT WILL BE DESIRABLE THEREFORE TO TIE SWAPO DOWN AS FIRMLY AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE SCHEDULE IN ORDER TO AVOID PROTRACTED UNCERTAINTY AND LAST-MINUTE READJUSTMENTS.

4. THE PRETORIA FIVE FORESEE THAT ONCE THE MEMORANDUM IS GIVEN ON JANUARY 9 TO THE SAG, SWAPO, AND OTHERS OUTLINED IN THE CG SCENARIO, IT MAY NOT BE LONG BEFORE THE FULL TEXT IS LEAKED OR PORTIONS THEREOF PASSED OUT MAKING FORMAL PUBLICATION BY OUR GOVERNMENTS ADVISABLE. IF THIS SHOULD HAPPEN, WE SUGGEST THAT THE PRETORIA FIVE BE AUTHORIZED TO SEND A DELEGATION IMMEDIATELY TO WINDHOEK TO GIVE OFFICIAL TEXTS OF THE MEMORANDUM TO INTERNAL GROUPS (DTA, INTERNAL SWAPO, NNF, NP, FP, KEY CHURCH LEADERS) AND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSALS. THIS MOVE WOULD HAVE THE DOUBLE PURPOSE OF KEEPING THESE INTERESTED GROUPS INFORMED AND AT THE SAME TIME BUILD UP PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSALS WHICH COULD, IN TURN, PREDISPOSE THE SAG AND SWAPO NOT TO REJECT THE PROPOSALS.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE BACKGROUND PAPER TO BE
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PAGE 03 PRETOR 07058 231053Z

PREPARED FOR USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH PUBLICATION OF THE WESTERN FIVE PROPOSALS, SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY RESPONSES SHOULD BE DRAFTED TO DEAL WITH ANY EFFORTS BY EITHER SWAPO OR SOUTH AFRICA TO ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY TO EACH OTHER OR TO THE FIVE FOR DIFFICULTIES, DELAYS OR STALEMATE. WE WILL WANT IN THIS REGARD TO BE READY TO COUNTER ASSERTIONS BY SOUTH AFRICA THAT THE CONTACT GROUP HAS REPEATEDLY SHIFTED GROUND AND INTRODUCED NEW ELEMENTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE NAMIBIA TALKS LAST APRIL, AND THAT THE SAG HAS BEEN FLEXIBLE THROUGHOUT AND HAS MADE FAR MORE CONCESSIONS THAN SWAPO. END QUOTE.

6. IN CONNECTION WITH THE INVITATION TO THE PROXIMITY TALKS, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT I MAY BE ASKED WHETHER THE P.M. COULD GO TO NEW YORK FOR THESE. BOTH HAS HINTED AT THIS IN THE PAST. GIVEN THE PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION, I DOUBT THAT VORSTER COULD GET AWAY, BUT THE TEMPTATION TO GO TO NEW YORK AND HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE MEDIA MAY BE GREAT. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND SHOULD THIS QUESTION BE PUT TO ME.
BOWDLER

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Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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ISecure: 1
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